

Revising with Style

LESSON 11

Splitting Subject and Verb II

During the revision process, you may wish to create sentence variety by splitting the subject and verb with a word or phrase. Doing so, however, should not affect the subject-verb agreement. If the subject is singular, use a singular verb. If the subject is plural, use a plural verb.

Notice in the following examples that the subject and verb, no matter how far apart they are, always agree.

- The **construction** of a bridge, requiring hundreds of people and millions of dollars, **takes** years of planning.
- **Joseph B. Strauss**, a designer of nearly four hundred bridges, **is** known today for having built the Golden Gate Bridge.

EXERCISE A For each sentence below, rewrite the underlined verb so that it agrees with its subject. If the verb is correct, write *correct*.

Sample _____ visit _____ Nearly nine million people, from all over the world, visits the Golden Gate Bridge each year.

- _____ The Golden Gate Bridge, linking San Francisco and Marin counties, were completed in 1937.
- _____ The impressive look of this suspension bridge, bright orange in color and art deco in style, was the idea of consulting architects Irving and Gertrude Morrow.
- _____ The bright orange, despite the U.S. Navy's preference for black with yellow stripes, were meant to blend with the natural setting.
- _____ Workers, fighting erosion from the salty air, repaints the bridge almost continuously.
- _____ Their effort, though unnoticed by most passersby, keep the steel portion of the bridge from rusting away.

EXERCISE B For each numbered item below, combine the sentences so that a phrase splits the subject and verb of the combined sentence. Make sure that the subject and verb agree.

- The bridge's two main towers rise 746 feet above water.
The towers are made of structural steel.

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2. New lamps make the towers appear taller at night.

The new lamps were installed after the fiftieth anniversary of the bridge.

3. The bridge's main span measures 4,200 feet.

A bridge's main span is the distance between its two main towers.

4. This span was the longest in the world.

It was the longest for almost thirty years.

5. The Akashi-Kaikyo Bridge in Japan is now the world's longest suspension bridge.

The Akashi-Kaikyo Bridge in Japan has a main span of 6,532 feet.
